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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 7 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the appeal of the Parliament of Georgia to international organizations, parliamentary assemblies and parliaments of the friendly States dated 7 December 2006 regarding the recent statements on the latest developments in the conflict zones of Georgia, adopted by the Russian Federation State Duma on 6 December 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 27.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Appeal of the Parliament of Georgia to international organizations, parliamentary assemblies and parliaments of the friendly States

The Parliament of Georgia expresses its deep concern regarding the statements on "Results of Independence Referendum and Presidential Elections in South Ossetia" and on "Appeal of the Abkhazian Parliament — National Assembly to the President of the Russian Federation and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the Recognition of Independence of the Republic of Abkhazia and the Establishment of the Associated Relations between the Russian Federation and Abkhazia" adopted by the Russian Federation State Duma on 6 December 2006.

Notwithstanding the fact that both of the adopted documents have no legal force or validity in terms of international law, it cannot be assessed otherwise than as an extremely confrontational political action against the State of Georgia aimed at provoking the Georgian side, escalating the situation and hampering the process of conflict settlement through a joint international effort.

It is outrageous that the actions of the State bodies of the Russian Federation unanimously and consistently transgress the framework of a democratic State and turn back to the obsolete behaviour that should have been buried in oblivion with the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war. The attempts of Russia to incorporate the territories of the small neighbouring State and to unilaterally change the borders are entirely incompatible with the established modern standards and virtually rule out the possibility of establishing a long-term cooperation with Russia as a reliable partner.

In particular, we would like to draw the attention of the international community to the fact that the country that formally is a guarantor of the peace process and an "objective and neutral mediator", the so-called "peacekeeping forces" of which are deployed in both of the conflict zones in Georgia, in fact, acts as an instigator and supporter of the aggressive separatism. The statements of the State Duma of the Russian Federation once again confirmed the fairness of Georgia's demand for the internationalization of the conflict resolution process. At the same time, this is another manifestation of how difficult and ineffective it is to conduct a direct dialogue with Russia on this issue, although Georgia has always been supporting, and on numerous occasions, has been urged by its friendly States to establish this dialogue.

It is tragic that the State Duma of the Russian Federation completely ignores the fate of hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons whose only guilt is their ethnic origin. The attempt to legitimize the results of ethnic cleansing, a vivid example of which is the adopted statement, sets a very dangerous precedent for the international community that will have a negative effect on Russia itself. However, it would be naïve to expect the protection of refugees' rights from the State body that directly supports, without any reservations, xenophobic anti-Georgian campaign carried out on the territory of Russia at present; the campaign that has resulted in deaths of completely innocent people.

The Parliament of Georgia emphasizes that the Government of Georgia shall not yield to the provocative actions and declarations of the Russian Federation aimed at preparing grounds for possible armed provocations, driving the conflict settlement process into the confrontational regime and discrediting Georgia on the international arena and that Georgia will steadily continue the process of democracy building and follow the path of the Euro-Atlantic integration.

The Government of Georgia will do its utmost to solve the territorial conflicts in a peaceful way, to intensify the direct dialogue with our Abkhaz and Ossetian compatriots and protect their rights within the boundaries of united Georgia. No matter how hard our foes may try, there is no alternative to the democratic and united Georgia, based on the European values. We do believe that all our friends, all interested international organizations and States will persistently support Georgia in its difficult but legitimate quest for common democratic and just values.